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Walker Ferguson's seedling spuria in a buttery yellow

Special Iris Issue

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER
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August-September, 1968

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM. Leaves Balboa Park 8:30 a.m., return about 5 p.m. Leaves La Jolla Public Library 9 a.m. $5.50, no-host lunch.

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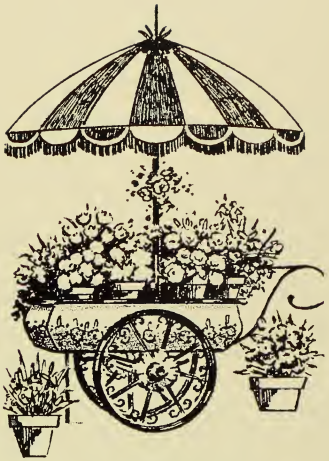

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California's Own Garden Magazine

August - September, 1968

Vol. 59 No. 4

THE COVER

The buttery yellow iris on the cover of this issue was photographed by Mrs. Eugene (Betty) Cooper. The subject of her picture is the first blossom on a seedling selected at random in Walker Ferguson's field. Seedlings are selectively eliminated in order that new varieties of garden spurias will show progressive improvement. (As it developed, the cover subject will not be scheduled for introduction.) But it did make a beautiful cover!

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Walker Ferguson looks over some beautiful spuria iris blossoms in his hybridizing garden in Escondido. (Photo by Lura Roach).

WALKER FERGUSON —Iris Hybridizer

by Joel Quivey

Read this and the following articles, all (or nearly all) about irises. They were specially prepared for our iris issue of California Garden.

"THIS WILL BE my last year with spurias. I'm getting too old for this." That is what Walker Ferguson said last year. He said the same thing the year before. And the year before that.

But he didn't really mean it. Because he is not too old at all. He is only 81.

He obviously is not too old for his field, because he still leads his field. Last April, at the spring iris show in Los Angeles, the trophy for the best spuria seedling in the show was won by Walker Ferguson. Last May, the same thing happened at the spring iris show in San Diego.

And right now, about 600 little seedling spuria plants are up to a foot tall in well-kept rows in Fergy's garden; these are a result of the hybridizing season of 1967 and they will be candidates for the trophies of 1969. Also right now, many well-tagged seed pods from the hybridizing of last spring are ripening in another part of Fergy's garden; they are scheduled for planting this fall, and for their first bloom in 1970.

Plant breeding is a very orderly and systematic process; it cannot be rushed; there is no purpose in trying to hurry it. Fergy knows; he has been breeding plants and raising plants since he was very young.

He was born in Mankato, Minnesota, on December 3, 1886. As a small boy on his parents' farm he developed his interest in horticulture and plant breeding. At the age of 20 he became a Life Member of the Minnesota Horticultural Society. Through the years his plant interests have varied: delphinimums, daffodils, raspberries, wheat, citrus fruit, bearded irises, primroses, and spuria irises. But he is proud

"Fairfield" was introduced by Ferguson in 1967 and it is his own favorite among all his irises. The blossom has a background of soft pastel colors overlaid with attractive dark flecks; it has a beautiful compact shape and heavy substance. A total of 14 blossoms opened at various times on the single bloomstalk pictured here. (Photo by Bill Gunther)

Joel Quivey is a humanities student at UCSD

"Frost" is one of Ferguson's 1967 introductions; it is big, vigorous, shapely, and frosty white. (Photo by Lura Roach).

that he always has been a "real dirt farmer."

Ferguson moved from his native Minnesota to Colorado in 1922; he moved to Valley Center (in San Diego County) in 1930, then to Santa Cruz in 1945, then back to San Diego County to his present Escondido address in 1949. He and his wife now take care of their home, their garden, the hybridizing, and the spuria mail order business; they do a good job of it, completely unassisted. None of Fergy's 3 children, 6 grandchildren, or 1 great-grandchild lives in Escondido.

It was in 1951 that Fergy read an intriguing item in Tell Mulestein's Iris Catalog; the item indicated that the spuria iris field was wide open for new hybridizing talent. Fergy then and there decided to hybridize spurias. To start his hybridizing program he purchased four varieties; he paid for them what then was the going retail price for those irises — "four rhizomes for a dollar." Those four spurias were Saugatuck, Azure Dawn, Alice Eastman, and Bronzespur; they constituted the initial breeding stock from which Fergy's own strain and his own introductions were largely based.

In the process of developing his strain, Fergy through the years has utilized only the best-performing of the many thousands of seedlings which he has grown. Since the selection for performance has been accomplished under the conditions in San Diego County, Fergy feels that his strain of spurias is the best for this area. But he hastens to acknowledge that some irises which perform superbly in one area do miserably in another environment. For that reason he firmly believes that "every section of the country should produce its own strains."

In reminiscing about old-time spurias, Fergy evaluates Sunny Day (introduced by Sass in 1931) as the best of all time—because of its clarity of color, its disease resistance, its vigor, and its excellent performance in a very wide variety of climatic conditions.

In evaluating recent spuria introductions, Fergy is particularly optimistic about Fairfield, which he introduced last year. It has beautiful coloring and form, heavy substance, a very long blooming season, and outstanding performance in this area. But time alone will tell how well it will do in other environments, and how well it will resist virus.

In recognition of his achievements in spuria hybridizing, the American Iris Society has awarded Fergy numerous honors, including its Hybridizer's Medal and two Eric Nies Awards. No person in history has received more than two Eric Nies Awards—but one of these years some person may get a third. If so, that person is likely to be Walker Ferguson.

Over 30 of those spuria varieties which Walker Ferguson himself has introduced now are in commerce and available by retail mail order from commercial listings. A listing of these varieties, with descriptions and mail order prices, may be obtained by writing to Walker Ferguson (1160 North Broadway, Escondido 92025) or to Pilley's Gardens (P.O. Box #7, Valley Center 92082) or to Melrose Gardens (309 Best Road South, Stockton 95206). ■

Baby Seedlings

About 400 new little spuria babies already were "lined out" in Walker Ferguson's fertile field in Escondido, California, on March 30, 1968.

About two-thirds of these spuria babies will show their first blossoms in the spring of 1969; the remainder will not bloom until April of 1970.

Of the perhaps 600 new spuria plants which Mr. Ferguson will transplant this year, possibly 6 eventually will be evaluated by him and/or by the AIS judges as "worthy of introduction." All others will be destroyed.

Such destruction may seem wasteful, but it is required in the selective process by which garden spurias are being improved. And it is essential to emphasize that this ratio of worthy to unworthy seedlings has been achieved only by expert selection and expert pairing of parents. If the selection and/or pairing of parents is less discriminating, the ratio of worthy to unworthy seedlings drops from about 1 in 100 to something like 1 in 1000 — or maybe even worse.

The latter figure is the ratio which probably would apply to most of us who are "amateur" hybridizers. And an additional stimulus is the truth that hybridizing is something like gambling. In both, the novice often seems to be favored by what variously is referred to as "fool's luck," or "beginner's luck."

So try it. Maybe you will hit the jackpot with your very first blossom.

And maybe you, like Walker Ferguson, will go on to collect a *couple* of Eric Nies Awards, *plus* the American Iris Society's Hybridizer's Medal.

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Spuria Hybridizer Eleanor McCown of Holtville, California stands by a corner of her award-winning educational display, "Spuria Ballet."

Spurias in the Garden

by Eleanor McCown, Iris Hybridizer

EVERY YEAR new varieties of spurias are introduced, differing in color or form or size from earlier introductions. Since this has been going on for a good many years, there is today a wide selection from which to choose.

I have been growing spurias for about twenty-five years and I began to wonder, if I were to start from scratch with a new garden, which spurias would I choose and how and where would I plant them? Checking through the listed varieties I realized that there were a great many that I had never seen and another long list of older ones that had grown in my garden but for one reason or another had disappeared from the scene. This still left enough varieties to fill a rather large garden.

Where would I plant them all and how? Since spurias can be left in one location for many years I should plan well before planting.

They're Tall

Most spurias are on the tall side, from three to six feet, so must be placed in the background of a border garden or in the center of a circular bed. They also look well in clumps planted as drifts in the lawn or near a pool. They should always have at least half a day of sun. They do very well in full sun and require lots of water during late winter and early spring months growing season, so close planting to trees should be avoided.

During the summer months, following bloom (which extends from the last of March through May in this area) they are semi-dormant and need little water so, if possible, they should be planted with this in mind.

During the long winter and spring months when the spurias are a mass of dark green leaves they look well as background for colorful annuals such as petunias. In the summer when the foliage gradually dies off and turns brown, companion plants should be close by to cover up the area. Daylilies make excellent companion plants, also dormant shrubs such as the dwarf Crepe Myrtle and Dwarf Pomegranate would help to fill in the space.

I think I would group the spurias in clumps of from three to five varieties, using plants of smiliar coloring in each clump. A few outstanding varieties would be nice as specimen plantings.

Suggested Groupings

Starting with the white varieties, I would group together three of the leading varieties, **White Heron, Wakerobin** and **Morningtide.** Wakerobin grows the tallest of the three in my garden so I would place it in the middle. White Heron is an older but very reliable bloomer, often having four open blooms. Both Wakerobin and White Heron have white standards and falls with a yellow signal. Wakerobin has a larger flower. Morningtide has a faint bluish cast and lovely form, but is still classified as white. All three are mid-season bloomers with White Heron outlasting the other two.

In another group I would plant **Lydia Jane, Windfall, Imperial Song,** and **Dawn Candle.** These are all fairly recent introductions, the first three having similar coloring, with creamy white standards and falls with a large deep yellow signal. Lydia Jane is lightly ruffled, Windfall a generous bloomer and Imperial Song, a large flower with heavy substance and good branching. Dawn Candle is the earliest to bloom, has a lovely form with creamy white standards and falls light yellow with a deeper splash of orange at the signal, a real bi-color. It and Windfall are a little taller than the other two. Windfall and Lydia Jane are mid-season bloomers and Imperial Song is a late bloomer.

Wide Range of Yellows

For the yellows, I would have a wide range to choose from and since all are vigorous it would be difficult to narrow it down to three or four varieties.

Elixir is especially vigorous and I think I would find a place for it by itself. While the flowers are of medium size, they are well formed and a very deep yellow orange in color. While not the first to bloom, it is an early bloomer and because of the exceptional branching, with sometimes as many as twelve flowers to the stalk. Often four are in bloom at one time. Elixir continues to bloom un-

til almost the last of the season.

Orange Maid is also a deep yellow orange, with larger flowers but not as many to the stalk. The flowers have good texture and starts blooming in mid-season continuing until late May. It would also make a nice lone planting.

Wadi Zem Zem, Golden Lady, and **Yellow Wings** would make a good group. Yellow Wings is the earliest, a nice large flower, lightly ruffled and medium yellow. Golden Lady is still tops among the yellows with medium yellow fairly large flowers. Wadi Zem Zem is a pale yellow with heavy substance and wide leaves. It is shorter than the others so could be planted in front of them.

Nearly Blue

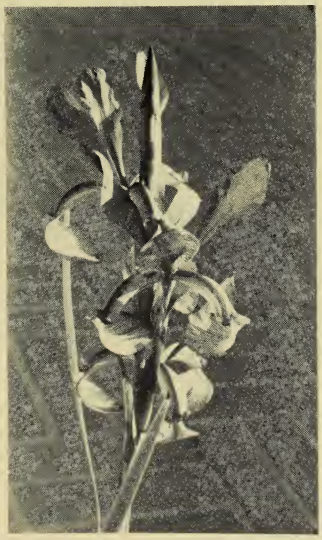
While no spuria could be called a true blue, all having a purple shading, some are nearer blue than others. I think I would group together **Blue Pinafore, Moon by Day, Imperial Ruffles** and **Neophyte.** Neophyte, the tallest, could be in the center. It has medium-sized flowers, the standards a strong blue violet and the falls cream with lavender veining. Moon by Day is a little shorter and would be nice in front with its light blue standards and almost white falls. These are both early to mid-season bloomers. Blue Pinafore, an older variety, is generous with lightly ruffled medium-blue flowers with a small signal. Imperial Ruffles, also a near-blue, has quite noticeable ruffling and good branching with often four open blooms at a time. Both are mid-season.

Lavender Blues

Another companion clump of lavender blue spurias would be **Farolito, Arbitrator** and **Imperial Flight.** Farolito has nice large flowers with light violet standards and orange yellow falls edged violet. Arbitrator is a large and heavy textured flower, striking because of the prominent deep purple veining on the lavender standards and bright yellow falls. These two are mid-season bloomers and a little taller than Imperial Flight which is a vivid blue lavender, the standards very erect and the falls stiffly held. Flight has good branching and is one of the last to bloom.

A Good Old-Timer

No collection of spurias would be complete without the old-timer, **Premier.** While the flower is rather small, it is very colorful with deep blue-violet standards and falls. The signal patch is light yellow with a nice pattern of lavender lines. A generous bloomer, Premier has exceptional branching and blooms from mid-season until the last of the season.



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Dawn Candle, in silhouette view, shows how very fitting is its name. This spuria was introduced by Ferguson in 1965.

This would look well planted by itself near a pool or as a drift in the lawn.

Blue Nightshade and **Thrush Song** would be good companions with very similar coloring and both blooming with the last of the spurias. Both have deep violet-blue standards and falls and the falls have an unusual color mixture of yellow and brown in the signal. Thrush Song is a little larger.

Beautiful Browns

One of the loveliest colors in the spurias is the brown. While the range of varieties is not as wide as in other colors, there are still enough to make it difficult to know which to choose. I think I would choose to place together **Cherokee Chief, Perky Maid, Driftwood, Chumash Chief** and **Dark and Handsome.** I would center Driftwood, the tallest, in the back. The flowers are large and well-formed and a lovely golden brown in color. Cherokee Chief and Perky Maid while quite old varieties are still distinctive in their own way. Cherokee Chief has medium-sized flowers, golden brown in color and blooms over a long period of time starting mid-season. Perky Maid is really a yellow with heavy brown veining. The medium-sized flowers are nicely ruffled. Chumash Chief is the darkest of the browns, a large flower with a very small signal. Dark and Handsome, one of the newest, is a bi-color with dark-brown standards and falls deep yellow heavily veined brown. All are mid-season.

While no spuria is really red, there are several new varieties that are a deep red-

Premier is a classic among spurias. Though it is one of the oldest of the garden varieties it remains one of the most colorful (with dark purplish blue predominating), one of the most vigorous, and one of the most popular. Introduced by Barr, in England, in 1899.

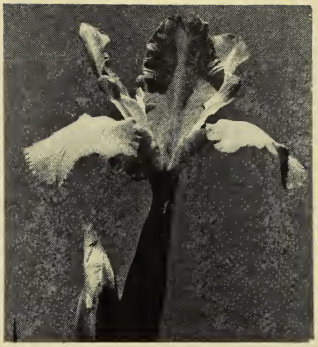
dish purple and I would want to include them in the garden. **Red Oak, Fireplace,** and **Imperial Burgundy** would make good companions.

Then, of course, there are some spurias that defy classification as to color. **Zephroso,** another old-timer that I would always have has ecru and lavender standards that can only be described as opalescent. The falls are similarly colored with a very small signal. A nicely formed medium-sized ruffled flower.

Connoisseur, one of the newest of introductions, has very large flowers. They could be called copper in color and take on added luster under artificial lights, with lavender-tinged standards and vivid amethyst-style crests.

While this would complete my selections from varieties already introduced I would have to leave space for some of the new ones that will be introduced in the future.

Mr. Ferguson had two outstanding white and yellow seedlings that won best of show, 1968, at Arcadia and San Diego. Another seedling he exhibited at the San Diego show was a deep velvety purple that could be outstanding. Another



Highline Lavender is a fine example of the compact shape in spurias. In addition to its fine shape, this iris also displays a beautiful lavender color which is a rarity among its kind. Hybridized by Eleanor McCown and introduced this year. (Note: This was incorrectly identified in the June-July, 1968 issue, on page 31.)

that I saw blooming in his garden is being introduced this year as **Landscape Blue.** It is as near blue as any spuria so far, with nicely formed large flowers. It is a must for my collection.

Mr. Hager has a new introduction this year that sounds delightful. With caramel coloring and small signal, the flowers are of a new form, with wide but short standards, and wide falls with a very short style arm, making a compact rounded flower. This seedling he has named **Woodwind.**

Pilley's Gardens will introduce my newest one called **Highline Lavender.** This too is a compact flower of similar form to Woodwind with medium lavender standards and falls, the signal patch a light yellow. ■

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Two lovely ladies who grace the world of flowers—left, Elsie Heimer, and the author of our story about her, Helen Carswell.

the wonderful story that time has told about

IRIS

— and a grand lady who grows them — Elsie Heimer

by Helen D. Carswell

THAT OLD SLIDE PROJECTOR jammed just once too often and the new automatic one was such fun, it made an ideal time to stroll through iris gardens of springs long past.

My pictures of Elsie Heimer's iris have for many years been kept in a special file, in exact chronologic sequence, and the collection added to each season. Since they were readily available, this was an ideal time to view that jewel garden where the newest, finest and most promising iris varieties are being grown to perfection and critically judged for value as garden subjects, and in particular for improvements to the tall bearded iris strain.

When the slide show was over, we—Mrs. Heimer, her sisters, Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. O'Connell, Betty and Gene Cooper, Laura Burbridge, David and Mildred Lyon, and H.D.C. came out into the sunshine of Mrs. Heimer's east patio, chatted about our iris memories. There we sat under the old, gnarled wisteria vine and the climbing Dainty Bess rose that have lived together for so many seasons. We looked out on the iris, arranged not in businesslike rows, but skillfully blended in a horseshoe around the lawn, forming a color harmony blended with bulbs, perennials, azaleas and the tall background of shrubs and climbing roses. The entire composition made a magnificent display reminiscent of an ethereal rainbow spray.

Mrs. Heimer is not only an excellent iris grower, but also one of the nation's top-flight judges for her favorite flower. The American Iris Society's Southern California Unit, Region 15, had this story—in part—in their "The Newsletter," Spring 1967:

Lady Elsie, Honorary Judge

"An honorary judgeship is the top honor and AIS judge can hold and it comes only through appointment by the AIS Board of Directors.

After 15 years of being a garden judge, then graduating to a Senior Judge, most of us either lose our desire to continue or our enthusiasm, and that is as far as we go. To "stay with it" all those years, and remain an active part of iris doings, as well as becoming a symbol of inspiration to others, are all factors leading to this honor. This Region can claim one such member who has far surpassed all these qualifications. Through her many years of iris work, and personal friendliness to all who know her, Elsie Heimer has recently been given an Honorary Judgeship . . . If AIS had a higher award, above that of Honorary Judge, I am sure she would be the one to receive it."

Iris friends are in the habit of calling her "Lady Elsie," from the iris the Lyons named for her, and introduced in 1957. It was previewed in a dramatic setting in their show garden, at the time of the AIS National Convention in 1956, in Los Angeles. Ever since it has been a great favorite with many West Coast irisarians. A bicolored deep amethyst-violet, with falls of plum-purple, shaded to royal-purple, it has Charmaize in its parentage, accounting for its fine keeping qualities. So that was how she became "Lady Elsie" to her friends.

Parade of Years

The outstanding impression left from viewing this pageant of many years blooming seasons, was the vast improvement in tall bearded iris. How infinitely superior today's varieties are, when compared to older ones, regardless of how thrilling they may have been long ago!

This sweep forward has been the work

"Time rolls on, carries you forward: what is past is past: it becomes but memory, dear, precious, often beautified by distance, but yet a memory: the shadow or the light of a thing that was."

—(Taken from a clipping in a 1933 scrapbook. Source not known)

of hundreds of hybridizers, amateur, professional and commercial. It is a development brought about season by season, improving form, color and substance, adding refinements of branching and spacing of bloomstalks, and height. New colors have been added—shades that are clean and clear, many with iridescence: falls now flare and show the specimens better from a distance, they are broader and fill in most of the space between them; standards now dome and arch, in place of flopping. Many have lacelike edges with ruffling. There is no end to the niceties that have been added to the beauty of iris, *Beauty,* whose influence is so mysterious to those who see it. Clumps of bloom viewed from a distance demonstrate how iris have been improved to enhance the overall loveliness of the garden, and also to dramatize the exquisite appeal of individual flowers.

Half a Century's Experience

Contemplating such a glorious display of ravishing beauty, and in communion with those who appreciate it, there is no end to the questions that come to mind:

"How long have you been growing iris?"

"How did you get started?"

"What was your very first iris?"

"Do you grow any old ones?"

"What did you plant this year?"

"Which one has greatest promise?"

Lady Elsie shows how indulgent and understanding she is, as she patiently answers one item at a time.

"It was in 1918 (we were still in Wisconsin then) and we took a trip to a nursery near Chicago to select some new peonies. It was there IRIS came into my life. We came home with iris and no peonies! It was soon after that we heard about Mrs. Douglas Pattison's Quality Gardens Iris at Freeport, Illinois and I have been growing iris ever since. That first iris was B. Y. Morrison."

Later, looking that variety up in American Iris Society Alphabetical Iris Check List, 1939, there really was such an iris and Mrs. Pattison's 1928 catalog described it: "(Sturt. 1918) S. pale violet: f. velvety, raisin purple, with wide, pale, lavender border. A strikingly beautiful variety."

So it would seem that from the very first Lady Elsie selected the newest and best. "Oh, it was a beauty," was her remark, and the light in her eyes told that she could still see it in her memory. Mrs. Murphy added, "Of course Elsie grows some older iris, for we all love the whites, *Snow Flurry, Celestial Snow, Swan Ballet,* and many more."

Mrs. Pattison's catalog also has some thoughts on older varieties, "One has to decide whether to grow a selected list of the very best, or conduct an iris museum. Many varieties can be discarded without a qualm since the newer ones are vastly superior."

My own personal iris experience only goes back to the forties, and my first ones were Mrs. Burbridge's gift. Never having seen the newer improved ones, my reaction was something like, "I could not care less," but to get them off my conscience, they were planted and promptly forgotten. Then one spring morning, looking out on the garden from an upstairs window, there was the most beautiful flower I had ever seen. Rushing down to see what it could be, I remembered the gift collection and from then on I too, had "The Bug." That bloom, a bright yellow, was perhaps Golden Majesty, but, alas, it did not last very well in our San Fernando Valley sunshine. That was why some years later Charmaize (D. Lyon 1949) was such great satisfaction, as it lasted and lasted, stood up to the sun, wind and rain. It is still a great favorite in my garden. Mildred explained that its durable substance came from one of its illustrious parents, the all-time classic, *Snow Flurry.* From the other parent, *Aztec Copper,* came its rich greenish yellow with strong undertones of chartreuse. Charmaize was the parent of many popular iris in the years that followed and David Lyon used it in his line breeding for good lasting qualities, not only in the garden, but also as a cut flower that would hold up in floral arrangements. Combined with substance he strived for beauty of form, flowers with rounded falls, shaped like a silver dollar, to fill in all the space, broad ruffled falls with no marking to mar their beauty. In addition to greenish tones, he worked with pinks, and perhaps one of his best pinks in *Paris Gown.*

We were all congratulating David on a recent honor:

"Premio Firence Del Iris
1968
Bewitched"

This honor comes from the well-known test garden of Florence, Italy, and it is the third such award he has received from them. Never having seen *Bewitched,* and not finding it in any iris

Continued

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catalogs, one assumes it is something to look forward to another planting time.

Note: (Mrs. Laura Burbridge had won this award for her *Midnight Waltz,* in 1964. It is a rich and charming darkie, a cross of *Black Hills* and *Sable Night,* an important addition to the blue-blacks, that is praised from every source.)

This good iris talk could go on and on and there was one more question to put to Lady Elsie:

"If a genie were to come to your garden some morning and tell you that you could have any new iris you want, what would you want?" Without any hesitation she answered, "Oh, I'd take David's new seedling, 64-10-9. Just wait till you see it; it is a real startling beauty, and will be introduced next year. The name, Flaming Moon, has not yet been confirmed by AIS Registration Committee, but no doubt about it, the name fits its size, form and glorious color."

Lady Elsie's Dozen

There are some favored beings whose joy for life never diminishes, who are filled with the wonder, the awe, the ecstasy of anticipation of new things and things to come. Elsie Heimer is certainly one of these people. Of the newest irises that have passed her critical scrutiny, here is her *favorite dozen:*

Babbling Brook (Keppel 1966)
Cambodia (Babson 1966)
Cherub's Choir (Corlew 1968)
Christie Anne (Gaulter 1964)
(My very pet, she said)
Country Fair (Corlew 1966)
Dusky Dancer (Luihn 1967)
Eternal Flame (Schreiner 1967)
Flight of Angels (Terrell 1968)
(Her first choice)
High Sierra (Gaulter 1967)
Kemzey (Corlew 1967)
Laurie (Gaulter 1966)
Royal Touch (Schreiner 1967)

No, she did not make it a "Baker's Dozen," for remember Lady Elsie is an American Iris Society Honorary Judge, and it is difficult for any new iris to pass her high standards, to enter her own "Hall of Fame" for all that is newest and best. ■

DON'T BRING BACK THE BUGS!

If you're planning a vacation trip this year back home to see the folks, or a world tour, or just to our next-door neighbor, Mexico, James M. Moon, San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner, recommends that you omit plant materials from the souvenirs you bring back.

It is hard to resist bringing back a favorite plant from Aunt Min's garden, or an exotic fruit, but you could at the same time bring back one of the ten thousand or so plant pests that could be a threat to the State's more than $4 billion agricultural industry. Even the packing material wrapped around other souvenirs can provide a hiding place for stowaway bugs.

Mr. Moon said that as our society becomes more mobile, and the speed of movement increases, so does the ability of plant pests to spread with great rapidity. These hitchhiking bugs often arrive on the most innocent looking fruits and plants carried by travelers, and they may eventually cause millions of dollars in damage to crops, ornamental plantings, and forests.

Throughout the State of California, Federal, State, and County plant quarantine officers keep a vigilant eye on the daily movement of thousands of lots of plants and plant products. Last year, San Diego County Department of Agriculture Inspectors checked 41,241 shipments of plant material. "Of these," Mr. Moon said, "234 shipments were rejected for failure to meet plant quarantine requirements or because they were infested with plant pests." Each year, the State Plant Quarantine Border Stations intercept an average of 72,000 lots of contraband materials or ones obviously infested with pests. These border stations are one of California's first lines of defense against the introduction of harmful plant and animal pests, and although they sometimes seem an inconvenience, remember they are there for the protection of your food and your garden.

"So," Mr. Moon said, "enjoy your vacation, but please don't bring home new plant pests to add to those already residing in California."

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SIBERIAN IRISES LIKE IT HERE

by Bill Gunther

"GAY HEART" is a medium blue color. Note that the falls (the three lower petals) drop vertically. This contrasts to those on "WHITE SWIRL" which flare horizontally. (Photo by Betty Mackintosh).

• The editor of CALIFORNIA GARDEN thanks irisarian Bill Gunther for his invaluable assistance in preparing this iris issue. Bill is editor of the Spuria Society Newsletter.

EVEN THOUGH they did not originate in Siberia, they *always* are called Siberian irises. But personally, we wish they were called something else. Anything else.

Because so long as this very special series of irises bears the name "Siberian," many experienced Southern California gardeners will be reluctant to try them.

This is because so many Southern California gardeners have learned—the hard way — that "Northern" garden subjects such as tulips and peonies and lilacs are a hopeless cause here. These Northern plants require a cold winter which simply cannot be provided along the coastal strip of Southern California. And after bitter failure with the highly-advertised tulips, no prudent gardener in this area would be so gullible as to order something called a "Siberian iris." The very name of it clearly indicates that the plant belongs someplace up in the frozen arctic rather than in Southern California.

"WHITE SWIRL" has a perky flaring form, a milky-white color, heavy substance, and long-lasting qualities which make it ideal for floral arrangements. (Photo by Betty Mackintosh)

Desirable in Local Gardens

This attitude is regrettable. Because once they are established here, many Siberian irises perform beautifully. In fact, they probably have a longer blooming season here than anywhere else. Their tall, grasslike foliage and their graceful blossoms atop tall, slim stems are appropriate in any type of garden setting. And because of their form, their cool harmonious colors, their fine foliage, and especially because of their smaller blossom size, Siberian irises are more useful for practical table arrangements than other types of irises.

In size of blossom and in height and thickness of stem Siberian irises are very

Continued, page 20

"CAESAR'S BROTHER" is a dark bluish-purple color and an attractive form; it is the most vigorous of all Siberian varieties.

Lois Weaver explains the fine points of one of the new introductions in one corner of her "iris patch" of modern, tall bearded varieties.

A Visit to the Weavers' Iris Garden

"Dixie Deb" is a Louisiana iris. This type grows wild in the swamps of Louisiana but is perfectly adaptable to Southern California gardens. A single Louisiana stalk is an artistic arrangement in itself.

LOIS AND WAYNE WEAVER live at 8624 Golden Ridge Road, in Lakeside. They are typical suburbanite folks, with a typical-sized family and with typical commuting problems. But what is *atypical* about the Weavers is that superimposed upon all their normal activities they have one big unifying and abiding interest. That interest is irises. It isn't a commercial type of thing; they do not sell irises; the interest is just as a hobby.

One result of this interest is that visitors to the Weaver's home are privileged to see what certainly is one of the most extensive collections of iris-thematic items in existence. This collection includes china, flatware, trophies, stationery, ceramics, textiles, writings, furniture, carvings, paintings, etc., *ad infinitum*.

Another result of this interest is that the Weaver's garden includes one of the most beautiful collections of irises available in this area. The garden primarily features tall-bearded varieties, but there also is a scattering of spurias, Louisianas, and Pacific Coast hybrids. Specimen stalks from this garden, displayed at the Springtime Iris Show in Balboa Park, San Diego, have won for the Weavers a hoard of medals, trophies, certificates, and ribbons of all colors.

In preparation for this special iris issue, Betty Mackintosh, staff photographer for the CALIFORNIA GARDEN magazine, took her camera to the Weaver's garden one recent afternoon. The photographs reproduced on these pages vividly illustrate what results when an expert photographer is given opportunity to work with such wonderful subjects as these perfectly-grown irises. ■

Photos by Betty Mackintosh, taken in the Weavers' garden.

"Crinoline" is a tall bearded iris of the type which is designated a "plicata"; the center area of the petals are one color, the outer perimeter a different color.

"Yellow Wings" is a spuria iris. This variety, hybridized by Walker Ferguson of Escondido, has yellow petals which extend out an unusual distance from the center of the blossom, giving reason for the descriptive name.

"Marie Phillips" is the name of this tall bearded variety. This bloomstalk, grown by the Weavers, was selected as "queen of the show" by the judges at the 1968 Spring Iris Show in Balboa Park, San Diego.

This is a Pacific Coast iris of the type which grows wild in Northern California and Oregon—but which is very happy to be domesticated in San Diego gardens. This beautiful photograph of a beautiful subject won honors for photographer Betty Mackintosh at the photo exhibit at the 1968 Southern California Expo at Del Mar.

This striking view of one of Thelma Carrington's Japanese iris seedlings, taken from below, accentuates the thin airy texture of the petals.

• To obtain coverage for this special iris issue, California Garden magazine's staff photographer Betty Mackintosh visited the Carrington garden a few weeks ago. The excellent photographs which accompany this article illustrate the fascinating variety to be found in the iris family.

Visiting The Carrington Garden

MR. AND MRS. N. REAVIS CARRINGTON live at 6283 Buisson Street in the University City district of San Diego; they have been garden enthusiasts for many years.

Mrs. Carrington (Thelma) was Show Chairman of the first iris show held in San Diego; her most recent honor was to win the American Iris Society's Bronze Medal for her irises at the 1968 Southern California Exposition at Del Mar. In addition to growing irises, Thelma also hybridizes them. A half dozen of her iris seedlings have been named and registered. During recent iris shows she has given educational demonstrations of the procedure by which she sprouts the embryo plants of her hybridized seeds in agar solution, in test tubes.

Reavis Carrington himself is particularly proud of his clump of the famous spuria iris "Golden Lady;" stalks from it have won him blue ribbons at iris shows in Los Angeles as well as in San Diego. Reavis also maintains a separate planting of tall bearded irises on some of his property in Del Mar.

The Carringtons do not limit their gardening interest to irises alone; their garden also features roses, daylilies, berries, fruits, and vegetables. But the irises seem to predominate, and they certainly are one of the most diversified collections in this area. In addition to tall bearded irises and spurias, the Carrington garden also boasts numbers of arilbred irises, Japanese irises, Siberians, Louisianas, Pacific Coast hybrids, plus a dozen or more species irises of assorted categories.

The species Iris Pseudacorus has an exotic looking blossom and is European in origin. This plant is a water lover; its tall green foliage is excellent for use in large arrangements.

This very photogenic Pacific Coast hybrid has heavy veining on petals which curl under abruptly near the tips—giving a chopped-off impression in vertical view.

"Golden Lady" is one of the best known of spuria irises; it has a rich yellow color, excellent substance, and is very floriferous. Bloomstalks reach a height of 5 feet.

Thelma Carrington, wearing a dress featuring an iris pattern, looks over blossoms of some of her own Japanese iris seedlings.

The species Iris Ensata has long narrow floral parts; the bloomstalk is only about nine inches tall and the blossom is proportionately small.

Spuria irises stand out in bright contrast against the backdrop of a redwood fence.

A CHUCKAWALLA ON A HOT TILE ROOF

by Bill Gunther

TODAY is the 19th of July, and the iris season here in Southern California is supposed to be over. But in my garden there are bearded irises in bloom, also Pacific Coast hybrids, also Japanese hybrids, also a Louisiana hybrid (Holley Blu), also a Siberian hybrid (Caesar's Brother). Also today I have six iris species in bloom. They are laevigata, douglasiana, tectorum, ensata, kaempferi, and dichotoma.

The reason why these irises still are blooming here, but not in most other iris gardens in the Southland, is *not* due to any superior gardening ability on my part. Rather it is due to the fact that my iris garden is closer to the ocean than other gardens of this area; it is on a hillside which overlooks the ocean. The ocean breezes stabilize the temperature here so that it very rarely reaches 80°F. and it has dropped to the freezing point only once during the past six years. Because of this stable temperature many of the iris plants seem to get confused to the point that they don't really know what season it is, and they bloom irregularly off and on for a good part of the year instead of just in the springtime when irises are supposed to bloom.

In addition to the irises listed above, I would be able to include as least one additional species (Iris tridentata) as being in bloom today except for the fact that every one of its blossoms was eaten up yesterday. They were eaten up by a garden pest which eats up far more of my irises than all other insects, critters, and plant diseases combined. And yet that pest *is not even mentioned* in the American Iris Society's listing of iris pests in its book "Garden Irises." Neither is it mentioned in any other list of garden pests which I have seen.

That New Pest

The pest I refer to is the chuckawalla, and I suspect that many readers of this article don't even know what a chuckawalla is.

A chuckawalla is about two and a half feet long. He has horns on his head. He also has horns along his back. He looks like a small dinosaur, or like a drab-colored iguana, or like a highly-enlarged horned-toad. Like all of them, he is a type of lizard.

Biology books indicate that the habitat of the chuckawalla is restricted to isolated rocky areas of the desert. But chuckawallas don't read books, and don't know about those restrictions. So they have followed the crowds and have moved in, along with the hippies, to the coastal strip of Southern California. Here, their favorite place to set up housekeeping (the chuckawallas; not the hippies) is under the hollow red roof-tiles of old Spanish-style houses—like mine.

The chuckawallas have no trouble getting up to the roofs; they can climb trees and vines just like cats, and they can jump surprising distances from a tree branch to a roof. There they rattle around happily; the hot tiles are just like the hot rocks where they used to live, out in the desert.

They Have Good Taste

Whenever a chuckawalla-on-the-roof decides that it is lunchtime he instinctively looks down to see if he can sight a nice cactus blossom, which is his favorite desert dessert. There are no cactus blossoms in my garden, but the chuckawallas don't seem to mind. That is because they have decided that iris blossoms are even more delicious. And more nutritious too. That is a testimonial.

When a hungry chuckawalla looks down and sees a beautiful iris blossom, he promptly climbs down from the roof and makes bee-line tracks for it. He bends the stalk down to ground level, then chomps off the blossom and gulps it down whole. This gives the impression that he is unmannerly and that he is not truly appreciative of the delicate texture and flavor of his beautiful snack.

But really, he is truly appreciative of those blossoms. This is evidenced by the fact that he will hunt around for more of them, and he will eat a dozen or more of them before he is satisfied—after which he will promptly return to the roof for an afternoon siesta in the sunshine, up on those warm tiles.

All of these actions of the chuckawalla

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comparable to the long-stemmed commercially-grown carnations which are so popular with florists. But in contrast to a carnation, a Siberian iris is subtle, and cool, and not at all gaudy. In color and in shape the blossom of a Siberian iris is graceful and airy and in taste; it is delicate; it is *not* just a blob of harsh color like those flower-decals which the hippies paste onto their VW beetles. Siberians range in color all the way from a dark purplish-blue to pure white, and a few have subtle touches of cream coloring—but none of them come in fire-engine-red, thank you.

What They're Like

Like all irises, Siberians are perennial. A clump will stay alive and bloom year after year, indefinitely. But unlike the bearded irises, Siberians do not require "dividing" every few years. The Siberian species and hybrids collectively constitute a botanic "series," and no member of that series will "cross" or hybridize with any bearded iris or with any spuria iris. Siberians are beardless; the wild species from which the garden Siberians were developed are native to central Europe and to Southern Asia; not to Siberia. The stems of all garden Siberians are tall and thin and hollow; the stems of other irises are thicker and fleshier and not hollow. Siberians — in comparison with bearded irises—are practically disease-free.

This year, the Siberians in Southern California began their blooming season early in April. Many were on display at the Spring Iris Shows in Arcadia (in mid-April) and at San Diego (early in May). Others were shown at the Mission Valley Show in late May. And Siberians also were on display at the Southern California Exposition at Del Mar during the last week of June and the first week of July. This represents a bloom season for these irises of over three months; nowhere else do they bloom for so long a duration.

Many people who visited these shows did not particularly notice the Siberians. This is because Siberians are hopelessly overwhelmed when set amidst the much larger and much more gaudy tall-bearded irises and spuria irises. However, the pictures which illustrate this article—despite the limitations of black-and-white photography—may serve better than many paragraphs of words to recall the unassuming charm of these little irises. (All of these photographs were taken in California in 1968.)

Siberian irises will die if their roots are completely submerged, but they grow vigorously if planted along the bank of a pond or stream a few inches above water level. Such a setting accentuates the value of the tall stems which soar above the foliage.

Where You Can Get Them

Named varieties of Siberian irises are not yet stocked in any local nursery; the nearest commercial garden which sells them by mail order is the Melrose Gardens, 309 Best Road, South, Stockton, California 95206; they will send an illustrated descriptive catalog and price list free, on postcard request. As a starter for your garden, we suggest the hybridized variety "Caesar's Brother," because it is inexpensive and because it seems to be the best performer for this area.

Another way of obtaining Siberian irises (not named varieties) is by planting seeds. This method is not for the impatient person, because the seeds after planting may take several months to germinate, and the small plants after sprouting may take two years to grow to blooming size. But if you have the patience to tend the seeds until they germinate, and to tend the baby plants until they mature, when the first blossom opens you will feel a sense of prideful fulfillment just as if that iris were your own baby. Which, in a sense, it is; you planted the seed.

If you are tempted, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the CALIFORNIA GARDEN magazine, Floral Building, Balboa Park, San Diego, California 92101, with a note requesting some hybrid Siberian iris seeds. There is no charge. A dozen mixed hybrid seeds, and instructions for planting and care, will be sent to you by return mail.

We wish you happy gardening, and we hope that your Siberian babies will be the blue ribbon winners of 1971! ■

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are so very human-like, and his expression is so soulful, and he appears so unapprehensive and trusting in nature, that no sensitive person could harm him. And none except sensitive persons are irisarians. So our chuckawalla chomps away on our irises, right in broad daylight, right in front of us, and doesn't get murdered for it.

Proposed Solution

Instead of hurting the chuckawallas, we are referring the whole thing to the Scientific Committee of the American Iris Society. Obviously, it is their problem. They should do something to make the chuckawallas go back to the desert where they belong. ■

Garden Books Old And New

New Structures in Flower Arrangement, **by Frances Bode. Hearthside Press, Inc., Publishers, New York, 126 Pages, 94 illustrations, some in color, $5.95.**

In this book is presented the art of flower arranging using the new forms, the new trends. For those arrangers who have been watching, and trying the new trends, here, in this book are the answers to many of your questions. The exciting vocabulary of today's art is explained and illustrations are given. These contemporary structures, most of them inspired by other art media— ASSEMBLAGES, COLLAGES, CONSTRUCTIONS, COMBINES, MOBILES, STABILES, STAMOBILES AND MAXIMUM - ART — are described, defended and illustrated.

With a background in Art, Mrs. Bode is most qualified to present such a book. A Bachelor of Arts degree in art and art history from Mills College; a teaching credential from the University of California at Berkeley; and a Master of Arts degree from Sacramento State College in art and anthropology; a well-known member of National Council of State Garden Clubs, a lecturer and teacher, and the author of an earlier book, "Creativity in Flower Arrangement," published in 1967, are some of her qualities and talents in this field.

The 94 illustrations in color and black and white are by the author's husband. He has attempted to capture the essence of the arrangements and records them with remarkable clarity.

This is a provocative book on the latest trends, most capably and delightfully presented by the author. (A just-released book.)

ALICE H. MILLER
El Cajon, Calif.

Landscaping for Western Living, **by Sunset Magazine. Lane Books, March 1968. 160 p. illus. $2.95.**

The Western approach to home landscaping is illustrated as well as explained to the novice and the newcomer, in 159 pages crammed with useful information. The short paragraphs interpret and illustrate the highlights of landscaping a new residence or redesigning or renovating and overgrown older place.

How to get more living out of every square foot of the land you paid for, by expert site planning for your family's activities, with comfort and liveability is the theme of all the paragraphs. Effective landscape planning before planting creates the whole picture to make your garden useful, beautiful and liveable. There are garden ideas and plans for dedicated gardeners and for casual gardeners. Remodeling of existing gardens shows living areas and play areas by using decks and terraces for easier maintenance and more outdoor living.

Hillside and sloping lots with run-off control of drainage problems, and climate control by use of panels and baffles, and roofs and sun shades of various types for heat control may help you solve those problem spots.

Your garden planned for outdoor living, includes lightscaping and floodlighting of areas. Special heating to prolong outdoor use is also touched upon, and also the use of water for reflecting pools and fountains to cool the outdoor living areas.

Site plans with problems are illustrated with plans and photographs by well-known contemporary landscape architects, together with lists of plants recommended for specific situations. These add to the down-to-earth usefulness of this book for the planner trying to carry out his ideas with a fresh viewpoint that causes his garden to reflect his own personal characteristics.

VERA MORGAN

Happy Ending for UC Research Project: Wasp Teams Controlling Olive Scale

A 20-YEAR-OLD University of California research project has come to a happy ending. In this case, happiness is millions of tiny, beneficial wasps — natives of the Middle East who now call California home.

The villain of the story is an insect pest, the olive scale, which invaded California in the mid-1930's. It attacked almost all kinds of fruit trees as well as ornamentals such as roses, oleander, cotoneaster and privet hedges. Within a dozen years, the scale, which encrusts and sucks juices from its plant hosts, was causing widespread damage in the central part of the state.

Scale insects are particularly good candidates for biological control, so UC entomologists began to search for natural insect enemies of the olive scale. Since the pest itself comes from Northern India or Pakistan, the logical place to look was in that part of the world. Sure enough, the first break-through, in 1951, came from Iran, in the form of a shipment of parasitized scales sent by UC Entomologist A. M. Boyce — later Dean of the College of Agricultural and Biological Sciences at Riverside.

In that package of scale-infested twigs, R. L. Boutt of the Division of Biological Control at UC, Berkeley, discovered a tiny wasp. Its name was Aphytis maculicornis, and it possessed the useful habit of laying its eggs on the olive scale.

The newcomer was propagated by the millions in the laboratory at Berkeley, and released in olive orchards by C. B. Huffaker and C. E. Kennett, also of the Division of Biological Control. It made itself at home, multiplied and attacked the scale, which promptly went into a decline.

But at this point a complication appeared — one that is typical of the delicate balances involved in biological pest control. Aphytis, it seemed, didn't much like the Central Valley's hot, dry summers. The wasp was highly effective against olive scale in the spring and fall, when it multiplied enormously. But during the hottest period in summer its populations were nearly decimated, thus permitting the scale pest to recoup its previous losses to some extent.

What was needed was a team-mate —

Continued, page 24

San Diego Zoo by Fred Schmidt

The Renovation of San Diego Zoo's Fern

by Tim Aller,
Horticulturist,
San Diego Zoo

Photo by Betty Mackintosh

ON ENTERING THE ZOO grounds, the entrance to San Diego Zoo's Fern Canyon is just north of the Flamingo Lagoon and just before you reach the bus depot. The winding paths in Fern Canyon lead below to Bear Canyon. The visitor may ride to the top mesa again on a speedramp which is located a short distance down Bear Canyon.

The Great Clean-Up

Fern Canyon was originally planted in the early days of the zoo and over the years has taken quite a beating from the public. It was obvious that it was necessary to work it over and relandscape it. This was accomplished the first of the year and the results have been pleasing. First, we completely and thoroughly cleaned up the canyon and pruned approximately two hundred miscellaneous trees which consisted of jacarandas, silk oaks, eugenias and some other smaller trees, removing the dead wood (especially on the jacarandas) and also thinned out the dense upper growth to let in more filtered sunlight and improve air circulation through the branches. Seventeen truck loads of brush were removed from the canyon and hauled to the dump. We then removed old, worn soil from eighteen planting areas in the canyon, back-filling with U.C. mix (consisting of blood meal, potassium sulfate, single superphosphate, dolomite lime, calcium carbonate and gypsum). This is used with 75% fine sand and 25% peat moss.

It was also necessary to make certain repairs to walks, railings and the pools in the canyon.

Fern Canyon now has a complete watering system which delivers a low precipitation rate of 0.2 inches (5 mm) per hour which applies water to the areas involved at a rate that the U.C. mix can absorb. This was installed by the Gardening Department of the zoo.

New Plant Combination

In the new landscaping of the canyon the system used in planting was to secure pleasing landscaping effects by combining the shrubs and plants of different genera to produce the best composition. Predominance has been placed on ferns. The several pools in the canyon lend themselves for a beautiful placement of ferns and bromeliads in strategic areas around the pools among the rocks. The pools contain nymphaea (water lilies) of pink, white, yellow and on to deep vermilion

Photo by Betty Mackintosh

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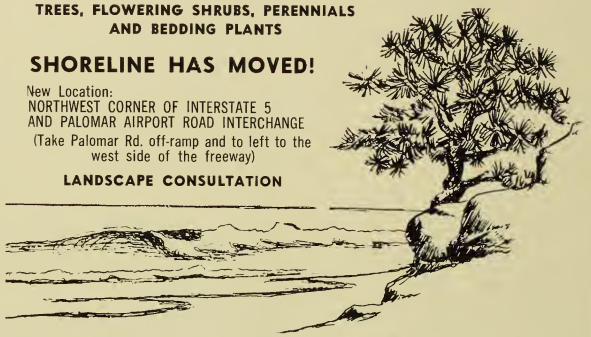

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Canyon

colors. Some are scented and others are either hardy or tropical. The canyon has been planted with several hundred of the smaller ferns as well as the larger tree ferns (alsophila australis and cibotium schiedei). Among the smaller ferns are *cyathea medullaris, Dicksonians, Nephrolepis Polystichum, Polypodium, Hymenophyllum Dryopteris, Ameimias* and many others. We used Rice Paper plant and Sasa bamboo plantings for effect in screening and basic foundation plantings.

There are also Rhododendrons, Schefleras, Araliaceae, Alocasias, Anthuriums and several hundred gardenias and camellias. An attempt was made to plant a ground cover in the hillside in the center of the canyon with plectranthus but the jungle fowl and peacocks (at large in the zoo) made a palatable meal of them immediately after planting.

Colorful Inhabitants

Amazon parrots are placed daily on hanging rings at different places in the canyon and make a bright contrast to the surrounding shrubbery.

A trip through "Fern Canyon" is well worth while. One may "drink in" the quiet beauty of the place when visiting the zoo. ■

San Diego Zoo Photo by Ron Garrison

ZOO'S NEW HYDROPONIC UNIT ONE WAY TO GROW PLANTS

Dr. Gary Kuehn of the San Diego Zoo hospital harvests a tray of barley grown in the Zoo's new hydroponics unit. No soil is required since hydroponics is the science of growing plants in solutions.

Nutrient-laden "rain" falls periodically on the racks of 224 plastic trays shown in the background. The atmosphere is controlled by air conditioning. The daily harvest is 610 pounds of barley sprouts. Trays on the lowest level of the racks are the first day's growth, while those Dr. Kuehn is removing are full-grown at seven days.

This sprouted barley is replacing more and more of the less nutritious and more expensive lettuce in the zoo animals' diets, and most of the animals seem to relish it just as much as lettuce.

The unit was purchased from Hydroculture, Inc., of Phoenix, Arizona.

Continued from page 21

another parasite that would attack the olive scale during the summer, but still would not seriously compete with Aphytis. On the theory that, somewhere, nature could meet even such exacting specifications as these, the entomologists started looking again. And in 1957, near the Khyber Pass in Pakistan, another Riverside entomologist, Paul deBach, found parasitized scales that turned out to contain the missing team-mate.

It was another wasp (Coccophagoides utilis), and it proved itself able to effectively attack olive scales during California's hottest months. "But Aphytis still dominated during weather that was favorable to both parasites," Huffaker reports. "This meant that the two species could co-exist. And that is just what they have done in California. As a result, the scale is under very effective control in thousands of acres of olive orchards where the parasites are encouraged — not to mention all the roadside plantings of oleander, and landscape ornamentals everywhere."

In most of these areas, a natural balance between parasite and prey has been achieved, with just enough scales surviving to maintain a population of wasps.

Meanwhile, the Berkeley biological control specialists have developed a grow-your-own parasite system for farmers, to replace the slow and expensive method of producing wasps in the laboratory. First, one or two trees in an orchard are sprayed with a long-lasting insecticide that kills the parasites but doesn't inhibit the scale. As a result, the pests take over and within a year or two encrust the trees with enormous population. When the insecticide wears off, the two species of parasite move in — and their populations, too, boom in response to the greater supply of hosts.

Then, following a time-table worked out by the UC entomologists, the grower cuts branches from the trees and carries the scales — each with an immature parasite inside it — to a new site.

After somewhat more than 20 years, the UC research project for biological control of olive scale has (1) developed the two-wasp team for control, (2) reduced the cost to almost nothing, and (3) shown how to integrate the biological control method with chemical sprays necessary for other pests.

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CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY WINS AWARD

DEL MAR—The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society captured the grand award for making the best overall contribution to the Southern California Expo flower show.

Jim Stalsonburg, the society's fair chairman, accepted the award.

Stalsonburg said the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society has participated in the exposition flower show for the past five years. This is the first grand award the society has won in the show.

Awards were presented by R. J. O'Connor, expo manager, in a ceremony at the flower show. Other awards announced by Robert Lamp, flower show superintendent, include:

Kate Sessions Award, to Mrs. J. H. Symons, 1859 Linden St., Riverside, for most points accumulated in arrangements, corsages and specimen blooms competition.

Special Award, to the San Diego Bonsai Society for maintenance of the newly created bonsai exhibits division.

Rose Division Award to Mr. and Mrs. Cutler, 4671 Toni Lane, San Diego, for their contributions as host and hostess for the rose show.

Awards for best maintained feature exhibits, Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society, cactus exhibit; Rosemary Gornick, Duffs Florist, Escondido, cut flowers; North County Shade Plant Club, garden clubs; Mrs. Mildred A. Murray, 467 E. Fulvia, Encinitas, hanging baskets; Stubbs Nursery, 277 Hillcrest Drive, Leucadia, nurserymen, and Mr. and Mrs. Frantz Tascher, 271 Ocean View, Del Mar, individual exhibitors.

Award for best maintained exhibit, junior division, Fallbrook Future Farmers of America. ■

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Photos by Betty Mackintosh

Toppled Stones

Nearby picnic area

OLD CALVARY CEMETERY:

destined to become second San Diego Pioneer Park

by Virginia M. Innis

FOR OVER THIRTY-FIVE YEARS residents of San Diego have said that something should be done about the Old Calvary Cemetery in Mission Hills. For as many years, the residents of Mission Hills have put forth efforts to effect a change. However, the condition of the cemetery has continuously deteriorated and neighborhood residents demanded the City Council action which was taken in June in the form of a resolution declaring abandonment of the cemetery which precluded further burials and is the first step of conversion of the cemetery into a pioneer park.

The residents of Mission Hills have been pressing for this action since 1957. That year the state legislature enacted laws through health and safety codes 8825 through 8829 which provides that if a cemetery endangers the health, safety, comfort or welfare of the public that the government may declare it abandoned if not more than 10 burials have occurred in the past five years. **The same law provides for the removal of headstones and memorials.** The law further states that such parks be dedicated as pioneer parks and that a central memorial be placed in the cemetery to honor those who have been interred. Pioneer parks are exclusive of any recreational attractions. They are "quiet-quiet" parks.

Calvary Cemetery has not been a quiet place for many years. The roar of motorcycles has fumed from the cemetery and the still has been broken by the gleeful cry of vandals and the crunching of headstones. Today most of the headstones are toppled. Fragments of glass lie scattered. Only graceful old pepper trees have weathered the abuse and neglect with gnarled dignity.

The cemetery is on the shoulder of Pringle Hill and as one stands in the cemetery on the crest of this hill all is not ugliness. Downhill, a profusion of limonium, commonly called sea lavender (a type of strawflower) turns the hillside white tinged lavender. There is a view of the bay and the sea over which came many of these early pioneers and leaders buried therein.

Calvary Cemetery was San Diego's second Catholic cemetery. The first was El Campo Santo, now a PIONEER PARK located in the 2400 block of San Diego Avenue in Old Town. Many of the first pioneers were buried in the first cemetery. On July 10, 1868 the cornerstone was laid for the Church of The Immaculate Conception, 2540 San Diego Avenue. Because of financial difficulties, the church was not constructed and worship was continued in the Old Adobe Chapel. On

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Virginia M. Innis, a graduate of San Diego State College, has more than 60 unit hours in history to her credit. Her love for history is reflected in the article on Calvary Cemetery. Mrs. Innis spent a great deal of research time assembling the material for this article.

October 27, 1873, the church of the Immaculate Conception, City of San Diego, State of California in the Catholic diocese of Los Angeles and Monterey acquired from the city of San Diego land for Calvary cemetery.

The Calvary site was originally Pueblo land that had been owned by the city of San Diego, but in 1869 the city sold the land to Joseph S. Mannasse who grew grain on the land. In 1873, Mannasse, who was a member of the hide firm of Mannasse & Schiller, resold the city twenty acres at fifty dollar an acre. Ten acres on the north side of this tract of land were set aside for a Catholic cemetery and ten acres on the south side were set aside for a Protestant cemetery. Calvary developed on the South side and this has created a mystery.

Burials are listed as having occurred in El Campo Santo from around 1850 to 1880. It is generally known that the cemetery was overflowing as early as 1870. At this time some had taken their dead to the Presidio Hill for burial. The Calvary site is a little over a mile south on San Diego Avenue and east up Pringle Hill. This writer feels the logical assumption which would resolve the mystery is that burials occurred on the south tract before the land was acquired for the purpose.

Father Ubach

There are many areas of speculation concerning Calvary because a fire destroyed many of the church documents on Calvary. It is also supposed that the cemetery was planned and consecrated by Father Antonio Ubach. Among the 1,650 known buried in Calvary, Father Ubach lies buried in the priest section and is the most widely known and romantic figure buried at Calvary.

Among the early protesters about the condition of the cemetery were a few who had known Father Ubach personally. One lady, in a letter to former city manager George Bean, stated "I knew Father Ubach very well, and I know of his unlimited charity and great work among the Indians. *He* was the Father Gaspero in the story "Ramona" written by Helen Hunt Jackson." It has been suggested that any single memorial placed in Calvary be situated at Father Ubach's grave.

No Upkeep Provisions

From the beginning no provisions were made for the upkeep of Calvary and perhaps this is why the cemetery has been in need of care for so many years. Calvary was used by the Catholic church until Holy Cross cemetery was acquired in 1918. The church did not sell lots in Calvary after 1920. The parish of the Immaculate Conception was very poor and did not see the construction of the church sanctuary until 1919. The responsibility and care of the lots in Calvary fell upon the relatives of those who were buried there. Many of these relatives feel somewhat bitter toward the church for letting the cemetery fall into the condition it is in.

North Section Not Used

The north section of the tract of land intended for a Protestant cemetery was never used. Mount Hope was established by the city in 1868 and many of the pioneers are buried there including the Babcocks, Hortons, Marstons and Sessions. It is assumed that some Protestants were buried in the old El Campo Santo. Some of the infamous, including Yankee Jim Robinson, were buried there.

Calvary was used extensively from 1880 to 1920. A San Diegan who remembers the burials during the first quarter of this century is Pasquale Antonicelli. He came from Italy to San Diego and arrived on March 2, 1913. On March 29 he started working for Kate Sessions. Both he and his brother, Guiseppe, received their nursery training under Miss Sessions in the vicinity of Calvary Cemetery. Miss Sessions holdings touched the north tract of land owned by the city.

During 1908 and 1909 the city had been given back five acres of the ten set aside for Calvary Cemetery. They had also assumed that the other ten would not be utilized as a cemetery by Protestants. Pasquale Antonicelli remembers setting out trees on this city-owned land. He recalls that the city did not have water and that he personally carried water to the young trees.

Memories of Early Days

The Sessions Nursery was located on Fort Stockton at Randolph Street on the SW corner. A few blocks away Miss Sessions lived in the two-story house on the NE corner of Randolph Street at Montecito. The house is well marked by a huge Montezuma cypress growing in the yard. In the back of the Sessions house, Miss Sessions and her brother grew poinsettias. This is the area where the Francis Parker School now stands.

In 1914 the construction of the Grant School adjacent to Calvary Cemetery added a warm and pleasing building to the area. The school was designed in the grand Spanish style by T. C. Kistner of the architectural firm of Kistner, Wright and Wright; the architectural firm later moved to Los Angeles. And San Diego architectural firms designed the additions.

Of the three prominent San Diegans who attended Grant School in the 30's architect David Tennebaum remembers Grant as a comfortable school and mentioned that it was one of the first schools built on the finger design with circulating air inside and outside. Tennebaum also recalls strolling through the cemetery. A boy in the 30's, he remembered that even in those days the tombstones seemed old and he was awed by the dates. He described Calvary as a "Tom Sawyer" type place and he remembered the original plank fence that enclosed the cemetery. He also remarked that occasionally stones were toppled over in those days.

Both Pasquale Antonicelli and his brother, Guiseppe had sons whom they named Frank. When one of the Grant teachers called on Frank Antonicelli, two hands went up. The teacher discovered one boy had a second name. This was Pasquale's son, who became Alfred Frank. In 1924 Kate Sessions sold her holdings in Mission Hills and the late Guiseppe Antonicelli purchased the property next door and founded the Mission Hills nursery. Frank Antonicelli now operates the nursery. Pasquale Antonicelli founded the Washington Street Nursery which he and his son, Alfred Frank, operate.

Jane Minshall, landscape architect for the San Diego City Schools and Frank Antonicelli both recall attending Grant School during the late 30's. Both recalled that funerals were getting far apart in those days and that the children stopped their school work or games of kick ball to watch the funeral processions and the cars and people around the cemetery. If a child couldn't get a good view, many were not above hinging back a plank in the fence.

Grant School Needs Space

Many additions have been made to the original Grant School. None are quite as charming as the original, a fact which had been attributed to the limited budget architects have met. Today, the school needs more playground space and has been solving the problem by using some of the city park land which is level and just north of the adobe cemetery wall.

The Grant school is perhaps one of

San Diego's most charming school structures, but because it was constructed before the Long Beach earthquake it is on the list of schools that must be rebuilt or replaced to meet the requirements of the 1934 Field Act that require consideration of the EARTHQUAKE FORCES. The construction of a two-story school would release some of the land for the needed play areas. The San Diego City Schools has been hoping that the area north of the cemetery wall would not be developed by the parks until added play area is provided. Many feel that Grant School is the one school that the city schools might reconstruct according to the original design. If this occurs, the space for the city schools playground presents a problem.

For many years there had been a dirt road along by the school, but in 1925 voters approved a portion of the Park lands to be used for the paved road that was extended at Randolph and Washington Place.

During the depression, federal work projects, known as W.P.A., were available to counties on a basis of fifty-fifty payment. The Calvary Cemetery was in need of a new wall and repair. Albert V. Mayrhofer collected money, mostly given in small amounts, but totaling over two thousand dollars for a work project to be carried out in the cemetery. The cemetery was too small as a unit to apply for a W.P.A. project; however, the city could enter it along with other projects and qualify. For this purpose, the Catholic Church passed the title of the cemetery to the city of San Diego in 1938. The adobe wall was constructed under the W.P.A. and the cemetery was cleaned. The supervision of the cemetery fell under the supervision of the cemetery manager of Mount Hope Cemetery. After the cleaning and restoration, a caretaker was assigned to the cemetery from 1940 to August 1949 when he was transferred back to Balboa Park.

Frank Antonicelli recalls that the U.S. Army Air Force had a camp in the cemetery briefly during 1942. At this time, there was fear of an invasion and balloons were floated over Convair from the cemetery site. When the fear of invasion lifted, the soldiers left the cemetery.

No funds were ever set aside for the care of Calvary Cemetery with the exception of the caretaker's salary. After the caretaker was recalled the cemetery started downhill again and the residents started asking for something to be done.

Under the administration of Mount Hope the cemetery was given "orphan's" care. This doesn't mean *no* care, but rather the care that came from concern. About four times each year the clean-up crews came from Mt. Hope, set the headstones and cleaned the cemetery. From time to time, the department of public works repaired the adobe wall when it had been damaged by rains and vandalism. During the time the W.P.A. project was undertaken, a valuable service was rendered by the city engineer. A complete survey of the cemetery was made, and old roads, walks and cornerstones were noted. With the help of Randal L. Taylor, cemetery manager of Mount Hope, a master over-all map was made. Nine sheets of graves information was compiled and eight pages of detailed drawings were made. This information will greatly aid in placing information of the central marker that the cemetery, as a pioneer park, will have. Jerome Belleau of the city parks department, said that he wanted this information placed on the central marker.

Under the supervision of Mount Hope at least 46 interments were made and twelve removals. One interment was Albert V. Mayrhofer who died in 1949. Four Mexican soldiers killed in an early revolution in Tijuana were removed to be reburied when a memorial was constructed in Mexico. Removed from Calvary were: General Jose Marroque, Pastor Ramos, Francisco Canevas and Alfonso Padillo.

Upon the announcement that the cemetery is destined to become a pioneer park one relative has expressed the intent to effect a removal. Many concur with one of the last wishes expressed by the late Bishop Buddy of the San Diego Catholic Diocese who said, "The turning of Calvary into a pioneer park is the only way to show continued respect for the dead buried therein."

City park plans call for the program of conversion to be completed by 1971. When the remaining acreage will be developed is a matter which will unfold with the park's future plans.

Pasquale Antonicelli recalls that tennis courts were on the northeast side of Grant School and that immediately following World War II they were lost to make way for the construction of the Washington Street off-ramp. Mr. Antonicelli also recalled that after he returned from a visit to Italy he was shocked to find that a stand of cork oak and pendulum acacia had been cut to make way for the construction of tennis courts that are still on the corner of Randolph Street on Washington Place. On the Randolph Street side of the tennis courts a pendulum acacia has grown from the roots of one of the trees that had been chopped down. Mr. Antonicelli thought a long time before he remarked, "Kate Sessions introduced that tree in the United States." Mr. Antonicelli also spoke of one of the men who had worked for Miss Sessions and who had died in her employment and was buried at Calvary.

This author had strolled through Calvary before the headstones were toppled and memory recalled headstones that told of the Irish, the Italians, and the Pioneers who had come from the Eastern United States.

Somehow most of us feel these will be enfolded in the pioneer park that is to be; and somehow that term "Rest in Peace" will achieve a new dimension on Pringle Hill. ■

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Nix (P. Valesca Craig '62) Dwarf. Semi-everblooming with c1/2" flat gold flowers lightly banded rose amber. 20" high. Rich brown buds.

Daylilies (Hemerocallis)

by Thelma Carrington

FEW PLANTS are as rewarding as daylilies, *hemerocallis*. Dramatic strides in hybridizing have given wide ranges of colors and forms with varying hues of pink—buff—apricot, bicolors, reds and intermediate colors and shades.

Wide eye-zones add interest and spectacular accent. Only pure white and blue are yet to become a reality.

Some are evergreen and everblooming, a definite asset in our semi-tropical area. The fountain-like foliage is an attractive addition to the perennial border and they thrive happily near tall bearded and Japanese iris, mingle with carnations and delphiniums, roses and sweet William.

The plants are disease-resistant and pest free. These are permanent perennials which withstand drought, excessive moisture, sun and partial shade. They thrive in any kind of soil, blooming under any and all conditions. Truly a *lazy* man's flower—when established, they take care of themselves!

Needing division only every three to four years, transplanting is best in early spring or fall after blooming. Taller varieties should have space 36 inches apart to spread and increase. Border and dwarfs require a distance of 24 inches

FOR YEAR-AROUND BLOOM

• To read a romantic story, try to obtain a copy of the American Horticultural Magazine, special issue on Hemerocallis, "Daylily Handbook." Daylilies were used by the ancient Chinese people before the development of written language for art, medicine and food.

apart. They want full sunlight or partial shade in the hottest climates.

Plant them in a hole 18 x 18 inches deep with a mixture of one part peat moss or ground bark mixed with one cup of superphosphate and two parts of native soil. Set the crown of the plant one inch below soil surface, firming soil around the plant and watering well.

Keep the plants irrigated until established. A feeding of superphosphate after blooming and extra water during hottest summer months will reward you with bountiful bloomstalks and masses of summer color, when garden blooms are at a premium.

In mixed bouquets, daylilies are an arranger's dream. Used in a mass arrangement, they provide dramatic color accent.

A new variety is *Carl Milliken* (Ben Hager '61), 38 inches. One of the finest new mid-gold with broad overlapping segments in a superb large ruffled and creped flower on well-branched stems with twenty-five blooms per stalk—this will provide a mass of brilliant color through the hottest months. *Carl Milliken* has evergreen foliage and the wonderful everblooming habit.

Nix (Patricia Craig '62), 20 inches tall, is another new daylily. An early 3½" wide reblooming-evergreen semi-dwarf with flat gold flowers lightly banded with rose amber, it is also an arranger's delight. Stems and seed pods are dark maroon and unopened petals are dark, adding an attractive appearance in the garden.

Wealth (Craig '61) is 34 inches tall. It is a reblooming evergreen. *Wealth* has a huge golden flower, very flat-faced. This plant is vigorous, floriferous, and prolific, admired by garden visitors. An established clump adds spectacular color with twenty buds for bloomstalk, giving a long bloom season.

Wonder (Craig '54), is 20 inches tall. It is big, cream with rosewood eye-zone and nearly everblooming. It is a semi-dwarf with attractive evergreen foliage.

Yellow Rain (Schlumpf), is 10 to 12 inches. This is a true dwarf with small yellow flowers and short, erect stems, nice for border plantings.

Want to know where to purchase these? Try Pilley's Gardens, Valley Center, Calif. 92082; Melrose Gardens, 309 Best Road South, Stockton, Calif. 95206; and Craig's Gardens, Hubbard, Oregon 97032. Do try some daylilies in your garden if you haven't before! ■

"May the daylily
(Hsüan Ts'ao) behind the tree,
Save me from my misery . . ."

—from Wei-feng, in
the Classic of Songs (Chinese)

Carl Milliken (Ben R. Hager '62) Semi-everblooming. Stunning wide ruffled immaculata medium yellow with soft green throat. Well branched with excellent substance. A fitting tribute to a great plant breeder.

Calendar of Care

DAHLIAS

by Larry Sisk,
San Diego County Dahlia Society

NOW IS THE HEIGHT of dahlia blossom time. Spectacular garden color rewards the grower for his love and care.

It also is show time for the exhibition fancier.

Whether the bloom crop is headed for the competition bench or for decorative use, there are certain techniques that will add to the flowers' attractiveness.

Preparation

About the time the first blooms start to open, careful washing of the plant with a fine water spray will remove foliage dust and insecticide residue, and refresh the plants as well.

If the blooms are to be cut immediately, surplus foliage on the selected canes may be removed ahead of time. This is especially desirable if the blooms are intended for showing.

Timing of Care Important

In removing foliage, disbranching and disbudding, the best time is early morning, or before the day warms and causes a softening of the plant. While the plant is crisp, unwanted foliage and buds will snap out easily.

However, if wayward canes are to be tied up and drawn toward the stake, the plant will respond with less danger after it warms and softens slightly.

Cutting of the blooms should be done in late afternoon or early evening. A pail of water should be taken to the plant so that the cane can be plunged in immediately. The reason for this is to prevent the hollow cane or stalk from filling with air so that circulation is impeded or prevented.

The water should be air temperature. Some fanciers advocate filling the container with hot water for even better keeping quality of the cut flowers.

Containers of cut dahlias should be placed in a draft-free location overnight after which they are ready for arranging or staging on the show bench.

If the blooms are to be transported, even for short distances, tying them together loosely will prevent nodding and snapping. Tying with care is necessary to prevent damage to the foliage.

When staging or arranging, a wad of wet cotton should be at hand so the foliage can be cleansed of any spots or soil. Cutting off an inch or so of the end of the cane will enable the bloom to take up more water.

This final cutting is best if done under water, and if the stem is to be stuck in a frog, the cut should be square. A slanting cut is better if the cane is destined for a vase.

Some flower lovers advocate placing aspirin and other substances in the water to improve keeping qualities, but such are of doubtful value. The longer one grows and exhibits, the more he is convinced that a dahlia bloom will remain fresh just so long; the maximum is about four days.

Feeding and Watering Now

Even though this is blossom time, dahlia care is especially needed for the remainder of the season. There should be at least one more good feeding with 4-10-10 or 2-12-12 (liquid), or better still, with only superphosphate and/or potash. Feeding with potash now and in mid-September is desirable to improve the roots and help them keep better during winter storage.

Regular, deep watering is essential until the plants quit blooming. Spraying to prevent insects and mildew also is essential. A special alert is advisable for red spider during warm weather. Use of kelthane or products containing kelthane will prevent or control these pests.

Karathane and other specifics are available to prevent or control mildew. Some growers are recommending the new systemic which combines insecticide and fungicide.

Continuation of this care and removal of spent blooms will keep the plants blooming into October and possibly into November. ■

"Dahlia Diggins"

by Larry Sisk

Worried that the bees won't pollinate your flowers? Attract more of them by growing other flowers that they like nearby: honeysuckle, coral vine, statice, etc.

Tuber eyes will emerge quicker if kept dark a few days after moistening and placing in a warm spot.

Tubers for cuttings should not be buried. Cover only about half with the crown free. Keep slightly damp, not wet.

Cuttings must have ventilation; if plastic tents or covers are used to maintain humidity, be sure that slits, holes, or other means allow some movement of air.

Starter beds for cuttings should be even with sides, or beds should be large enough to allow air circulation.

Hungry field mice will eat dahlia sprouts and emerging eyes; keep traps baited with cheese nearby (but not close enough to be a hazard).

Cuttings growing in plant bands—especially asphalt paper—should be removed before planting out. Otherwise the clump will be miserably tangled and compact, growing around the banding material.

FUCHSIAS

by Morrison W. Doty
San Diego Fuchsia Society

UP AT OUR SUMMER HOME in the Redwoods above the Golden Gate, there are some old fuchsia plants that have bloomed every season without any watering or care for nearly 30 years, and a neighbor there has a beautiful 25-year-old tree-like fuchsia over ten feet tall. Like the redwoods, they thrive on more rain, the cool fog, and the rich natural leaf mold, with a minimum of care. So that area has long been a haven for fuchsia hybridizers famous for developing hundreds of our finest name varieties. However, perhaps the equal achievements of growers and hybridizers in semiarid parts of Southern California despite problems of water and soils, extreme drought, extra pests and Santa Ana winds are more surprising.

The many ingenious ways to circumvent these hazards and simulate the rain forest habitat they love, for maximum results is what this story is all about. Even in the hottest weather, well established healthy old bushes and plants in the ground may need little care beyond watering every few days, a mild prevention spray and fish emulsion feeding two or three weeks apart. But this is not true of your beautiful basket and container plants.

In Southern California remember that water in proper proportions may be their life or death. Most so-called mysterious losses of fine container plants is from drying out entirely (as in cool windy weather) before you know it. However, too much watering of plants in heavy shade, or soil mixture too rich in moisture-holding elements with poor drainage may kill container plants also. But it is rare indeed compared with dry killing.

The frequency of watering depends upon 3 or 4 things besides temperature; such as types of containers, soil mixtures, size of plant, exposure, and even its variety and length of time in the container. Redwood boxes, or other containers with metal or impervious liners hold moisture longer, and soil that includes some clay loam, heavy leaf mold, spongerock, or good peat, help the roots to keep a *moist center* of *life* longer. But peat once entirely dried out may be worthless later. Too light, unfamiliar soil mixes that allow water to run through too quickly, carrying away most of the nutrient also, may easily cause the death of some plants at your first absence, or neglect to water often during only a few days of dry heat, may have the same effect. **So it is best to finger-test the soil for moisture underneath in very dry or windy weather, every day or two, especially baskets of big plants, even if the nights are foggy and chilly.**

When to Water

On hot days the best time to water is in the cool of the day, mornings or evenings, when the foliage may be sprayed sharply both below and above to dislodge most pests, and refresh the plant. A fogging nozzle to make a mist around them is a great help, since it makes our semi-desert air a little more like their natural rain-forest habitat. Every few days good deep watering to leech out the unwanted salts and alkali, that afflict our imported water here, should be remembered. Don't spray the leaves of a wilted hot dry plant (making water burns) nor try to feed it until it has recovered from its wilt.

Fertilizing

Being hearty adaptable feeders, fuchsias will do well on most well balanced fertilizers. Fish-emulsion concentrates, such as Country Squire, Aragro, Blue Whale, among others, are very satisfactory in this area. For heavy bloom, this time of year, a formula of 4 or 6-10-8 fish-concentrate applied every ten days or two weeks is favored, in the proportion of 1 tablespoon to a gallon of water.

There is now available a new type fertilizer, composed largely of granulated magnesium ammonium phosphate and granulated magnesium potassium phosphate (low in nitrates and potash, but high in phosphates) that is intended to release itself as it can be accepted, slowly over a period of months, like a coated fertilizer, but longer lasting. However it has not been tried long enough here to determine its merits yet.

Fuchsias that are kept well watered, nourished and vigorous are not prone to plant diseases. If infected from bad nursery stock, or neglect, infestation of thrip, white fly, red spider mites, or aphis, is possible, but can be easily controlled with the many sprays available at good fuchsia nurseries. Some now claim to be even better and safer than the old standby Lindane and Malathion compounds. The systemic long-lasting pesticides are also urged upon us, and are preferred by some.

But a good mild preventive spray which forestalls any infestation, is still a good idea for the small grower, and always use sprays as mild as possible. This area is fortunate in having many good nurseries that specialize in fuchsias (some of which may be called tourist attractions in beauty) and all of them have helpful information to offer, together with hundreds of varieties, both new and old. Try using orange, or light colored varieties to brighten up dull garden nooks, and intersperse big ferns, which complement your fuchsias with dignity and beauty.

This summer place comfortable seats in your garden that are an invitation to linger and enjoy a retreat from this troubled world. ■

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IRISES

by Bill Gunther

The many iris shows, general flower shows, and garden tours of the last months gave opportunity for everyone to see many different types of irises in bloom, and to note the names of the hybrid varieties and the iris species which he likes best.

Now is the time to plan to obtain those varieties and species.

Generally speaking, the best place to get any iris is the *nearest* commercial garden which grows the iris which you desire. The two important reasons why your order should go to the nearest grower who has the iris which you desire are:

(1) Irises which have been grown in an area near your garden already have been "acclimated" to the weather and water and soil of your area; they are less likely to go into a period of "setback" while adjusting to the conditions of your garden.

(2) Many iris varieties (especially the beardless types) do not like to spend a long time barerooted, in shipment. An iris coming from a shorter distance will be en route for a shorter time. It can be replanted sooner, and thus will be more likely to thrive and bloom for you.

This being so, if you live in San Diego County, and if you desire *bearded* irises, you should now drop a card or note to Pilley's Gardens, 29964 Valley Center Road, Valley Center, California 92082, and request their iris listing. The price list will be sent to you by return mail, without charge. From this retail listing you can select the varieties you desire at prices which are as low as those offered by any commercial grower in the USA. Pilley's Gardens is the only commercial grower in San Diego County with an extensive listing of bearded irises. All varieties which are listed by Pilley's Gardens will bloom well in Southern California.

Southern Californians who desire *spuria* irises should drop a card or note to Pilley's Gardens (address above) *and* to Walker Ferguson, 1160 North Broadway, Escondido, California 92025. Both listings are free, and prices are comparable, but each of these growers has some varieties which are not available from the other. Thus, by having both listings you will have the best chance of finding all the varieties you desire. These are the only commercial growers in San Diego County which have spuria iris listings. All varieties of spuria irises grow very well in Southern California if they are planted promptly on receipt, and if they are kept moist after planting.

Southern Californians who desire named varieties of *Pacific Coast* irises should schedule a Sunday family outing, by auto, to get them. A recommended itinerary would be via highway 395 to Riverside, then West to Claremont for a visit to the Ranch Santa Ana Botanic Garden (many irises and other native California plants in a very beautiful setting; admission is free), then a few blocks west on Foothill Boulevard to the Claremont Nursery (where the outstanding Pacific Coast hybrid iris "Ripple Rock" is on sale in gallon cans at the bargain price of $1.95), then west to Arcadia for a visit to the State and County Arboretum a few blocks north of the racetrack on Baldwin Street (many hybrid irises and many exotic plants in natural landscaping, admission is free), then west a few blocks to the McCaskill Gardens, 24 South Michillinda Avenue, Pasadena (many Pacific Coast irises and other plants in cans, cash & carry), then return home via Interstate 5. (All gardens and nurseries listed in this paragraph are open seven days per week. Pacific Coast irises are not listed commercially by any San Diego County grower. These irises do not survive "barerooting" for mail order shipment, but they thrive beautifully when transplanted from cans into San Diego County gardens. The special effort required to obtain these irises is most worthwhile.)

The only commercial grower in the state of California with a good selection of Siberian irises, Louisiana irises, and/or Japanese irises is the Melrose Gardens, 309-C Best Road South, Stockton, California 95206. The Melrose Gardens will send a copy of their new 1968 catalogue without charge, on request. All the irises listed in the Melrose catalogue will be shipped by mail, on mail order. All Louisiana irises will thrive anyplace in Southern California if they are watered frequently. Of the Siberian irises, the variety "Caesar's Brother" is the easiest to grow and the least expensive (only one dollar per plant) and the best for Southern California's climate. Other Siberian irises perform satisfactorily in this area if pampered, but not otherwise. Japanese irises do not like the alkaline soil and water of Southern California; they will bloom here only if grown under special conditions such as those which are specified for them in the Melrose catalog.

For detailed information about Japanese irises, see the CALIFORNIA GARDEN magazine for December, 1967; feature articles on Louisiana irises and bearded irises are in the issue for April, 1966: Pacific Coast irises are spotlighted in the issue for June, 1967; spurias rate special attention in the issue for October, 1967. Copies of these back issues may be obtained at 50c per copy by mail order prepaid to the publication office of this magazine.

Calendar of Care

ROSES

by J. Wells Hershey and Mary Jane Hershey
San Diego Rose Society

Root Your Own Rose Slips For Fun

When you find that the long hot summer day has left you dry and thirsty, you can be certain that your garden is experiencing the same sensations. Dry, hot winds will draw out of the leaves a great deal of water which will require prompt replacement in the root zone. Proper mulching helps keep the bushes' roots moist, and aids the grower. Although mulch is usually applied in the early spring months in this area, it is not too late to do so now. In fact, we still have many warm days ahead, as well as the "hot spell" which heralds the start of school's fall term. Continue feeding your rose bushes through September for October's crop of blooms. We are thrilled each year by the beautiful color of the fall roses, — it is truly the last show of summer!

Have you ever wanted to root your own rose slips? It is fun, and may be the way to retain a strong growing vigorous plant that is no longer available on the market, or preserve an interesting "sport" that has developed on one of your bushes. Before we proceed, it must be noted that it is against the patent laws to propagate any patented variety of roses without the permission of the patent owner or his licensee, regardless of the reason.

There is a tremendous variation in the strength and vigor of rose plants within a variety, because sometimes not enough care is taken in selecting the parent plants from which bud wood is taken for the production of new plants. Our best example of this is the Peace rose. When it was first introduced, it was a strong growing vigorous rose, but as the years went by and its patent expired, the bushes did not seem to be as strong and vivid. At its peak of popularity, we saw it growing in the fields of Armstrong Nurseries, standing head and shoulders above all the other rows of roses, its deep, dark green foliage glistening in the sun, with promises of beauty in its color-showing buds. Every rosarian in our tour knew that it was Peace, and every gardener who bought these bushes in the following "bare root season" should have had many pleasurable years of enjoyment from them. Well, if you have one of these bushes, and some time on your hands, try slipping it for fun, and you may produce an "own-root" rose plant. In some cases it will grow better than a similar variety on a root stock. In others, it may not have as much vigor. "Own-root" plants take a year or two longer to gain their maximum size than does a budded plant. The generally accepted root stock for rose bushes in this part of the United States is Dr. Huey.

A Way to Slip Rose Cuttings

There is an easier way of slipping rose cuttings than the way mother did it, and one that may be used at any time. A five to six inch flower pot is filled with any good garden soil after placing a broom handle in the center of the pot. When the soil in the pot is thoroughly firmed around the center stick, remove the stick. The hole is then filled with perlite, sharp sand, or vermiculite.

The slip or cutting is in condition to plant when the bloom fads and the petals fall. For this reason you may select any rose in your bouquet that you would like to root, providing it has at least four perfect leaves on it (the perfect leaf has five leaflets, the imperfect leaf has three). A cut is made one-eighth inch below the bottom leaf and one-eighth inch above the top perfect leaf. The two lower leaves are removed, since they will be on the part of the cutting that goes into the sand or perlite.

Treat the butt (or bottom) end with a root hormone and insert it in sterile medium in the center of the flower pot and dampen the soil. Bend a piece of wire into a loop and insert its end into the soil of the pot so that the loop is above the rose slip, (to hold the plastic freezer bag-in which we are going to place the pot-above the slip). Place the pot in a plastic freezer bag, tie the top tightly (above the loop) to prevent loss of moisture. If this is properly done, no other moisture other than dampening the soil at time of planting need to be given until new growth is showing.

Place the pot in a light but not sunny situation. When the new growth appears on the slip, the top can be untied and opened so that the plant will adjust to the drier atmosphere than that in which it was growing. After a week or two of conditioning, the pot can be removed from the plastic bag and placed in full sun to become thoroughly established.

Watch Drainage

Two or three weeks will probably be the time required for this stage of growth. The plant is then ready to be removed from the pot and set in the rose bed, or placed in a larger pot. One more word of instruction. It has been assumed that good drainage is provided in the flower pot by covering the drainage hole with broken pieces of pot before placing the broom stick in the container and surrounding it with garden soil.

Continued, page 34

ROSE GROWERS . . .
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How To Win The Queen Of The Show Award, Or The Bigger They Are, The Slimmer The Chance!

by Mary Jane Hershey

WHEN YOU ARE PLANNING to enter roses in competition, there may be more arguments against your entering your own best blooms than for your entering, one of which being that you do not have three to four hundred plants from which to choose your entries. If this is the case, a quick study of gardens of the top award winners will often show that the majority of winners have small gardens, one-eighth the size of the above mentioned figures. In fact, the small grower often has an advantage over the large-scale grower because he can tend to his plant with the concentration and devotion necessary to producing prize winning blooms.

One such example is the garden of Mr. and Mrs. J. Paul Gaughen. In their garden is a raised bed of roses. This planter had been placed in use as a rose bed in August, 1966, when they moved their roses from the side of the house to this location in order for the rose bushes to have more sunshine. As they desired roses with color from pink to lavender in this particular area, they moved First Love, Show Girl, Pink Favorite and Song of Paris. The following April, 1967 they picked and entered a beautiful bloom from their cultivar, First Love, which was chosen as Queen of the Show. Because the number of plants in their rose garden is fifty-four, they were able to give their roses intensified care. Mrs. Gaughen recorded the date of pruning, had pruned so that the bushes would grow upright (and had chosen cultivars that were known for their upright growth,) had added a slow fertilizer to the bed, and of course, had sprayed and watered as needed. The last week before the show, she concentrated on keeping the bugs off, and watering

There is also a low wooden sign in their patio flower bed which says,

The Garden
The kiss of the sun for pardon
The song of the birds for mirth
You are nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.

■

Mrs. J. Paul Gaughen

ROSES

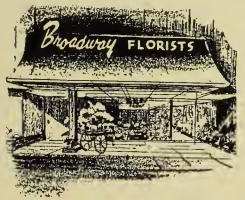
Continued from page 33

The San Diego Rose Society will tour the rose gardens of Mr. and Mrs. George Laird, 1446 Palomar Place, Vista, California on Sunday, September 22, 1968 from 3 to 4 p.m. Their next regular meeting in the Floral Building, Balboa Park will be held on October 21, 1968 at 8 p.m. (the third Monday of each month, October through June of each year.)

It must be noted that the Queen of the Rose Show of the American Rose Society's National Rose Show, held during the Convention at Disneyland in June, was the "John F. Kennedy." It was picked on Tuesday before the Saturday show date, and brought to the convention (in a bucket) from San Francisco. On Friday, Jim Campbell found it necessary to pack it in ice up to bud to keep it from opening. This rose was still beautiful and perfect the following evening when the show closed. ■

Morning Garden

There is a time in the early morning when all your garden treasures wear their special early beauty. It is quiet, the dew sparkles on everything. And best of all, since yesterday, new buds have come, some have opened, and your garden gives you freely of its lovely bounty. A walk in your "morning garden" will keep your spirits high all day. ■



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Pres: Howard Voss 1-753-5415
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Rep.: Mrs. R. M. Middleton 296-3246
3944 Centre St., S.D. 92103

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Star Route, Descanso 92016 445-3024
Rep.: Mrs. O. M. Conoly
758 Cordova Ave., San Diego 92107 223-7769

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4067 Monroe Ave., S.D. 92116

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4310 Piedmont Dr., S.D. 92107

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First Wednesday, 1:30 Seven Oaks Community Center, Bernardo Oaks Dr., Rancho Bernardo
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16715 Cresta Dr., S.D. 92128

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First Friday, VFW Hall, Carlsbad, 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Daniel N. Kurily 729-6618
1430 Forest Ave., Carlsbad 92108

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Pres.: Mrs. Raymond E. Smith 488-0830
4995 Fanuel St., Pacific Beach 92109

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Meets 1st Tuesday, Red Cross Bldg., 1113 Adella Lane
Pres.: Cdr. Philip H. Dennler 435-3337
331 B St., Coronado 92118

CROSS-TOWN GARDEN CLUB
Third Tuesday, Knights of Columbus Hall, 3827 43rd St., S.D. 92105, 8 p.m.
Pres.: Charles Williams 284-2317
4240 46th, S.D. 92115

CROWN GARDEN CLUB OF CORONADO
Fourth Thursday, Red Cross Bldg, 1113 Adella Lane, 9:00 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Benjamin H. Berry 435-4997
471 Country Club Lane, Coronado 92118

DELCADIA GARDEN CLUB
First Wednesday, Encinitas Union Elementary School, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. I. F. Nichols 753-5409
159 Diana, Leucadia 92046

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB (PAUMA VLY.)
Meets 2nd Tuesday, Alt. Pauma Valley and Valley Center 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Frances J. Lawson
P. O. Box 288, Valley Center 92082

EL CAJON WOMAN'S CLUB (Garden Section)
Pres.: Mrs. John Ohlson 444-2753
655 Bradford Rd., El Cajon 92020

ESCONDIDO GARDEN CLUB
3rd Friday, Veterans Memorial Hall 1:00 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Lawrence Mineah 745-9629
201 S. Upas, Escondido

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
Last Thursday, Fallbrook Woman's Clubhouse, 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Roman E. Shore 728-7044
1211 Pepper Tree Lane, Fallbrook 92028

GROSSMONT GARDEN CLUB
Second Monday, La Mesa Chamber of Commerce Bldg., University Ave., La Mesa 92041
Pres.: Mrs. James Culver 466-6388
8558 Boulder Dr., La Mesa 92041

HIPS and THORNS
Meets at Members' Homes Quarterly.
Pres.: Mrs. Eugene Cooper 295-7938

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3rd Monday, Lakeside Farm School, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Loy M. Smith 443-3089
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5169 Ewing, S.D.

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Third Monday, 10 a.m. Homes of members
Pres.: Mrs. Joseph Cuddihy
7857 La Jolla Scenic Dr., La Jolla 92037 453-0171

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(Garden Section)
First Tuesday, Lemon Grove Woman's Club House, 1 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Hal Crow 466-3330
3850 Quarry Rd., La Mesa

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Meets First Monday, 8 p.m.
Barbour Hall, Pershing and University
Mrs. Vera Elmar 477-5344
1129E 16th St., National City 92050

NORTH COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY
Meets First Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. at Palomar College
Pres.: James A. Kirk 748-3870
15131 Espola Road, Poway

NORTH COUNTY SHADE PLANT CLUB
Second Sat., 1:30 p.m. Seacoast Hall, Encinitas
Pres.: Mrs. M. J. Noy 753-5037
1579 Caudor St., Encinitas 92024
114 Natal Wy., Vista

O. C. IT GROW GARDEN CLUB
Second Wednesday, S. Oceanside School Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. John B. Stanton 726-1466
1858 Avocado Dr., Vista 92083

PACIFIC BEACH GARDEN CLUB
Meet second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Community Club House, Gresham and Diamond Sts., Pacific Beach
Pres.: Mrs. Charles E. Domler 283-3642
5158 Hastings Rd., S.D. 92116

SAN DIEGO PALM SOCIETY
Pres.: Mr. James Specht

PALOMAR CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
Third Saturday, 1 p.m., Palomar College Foreign Language Building, Room F22
Pres.: Mrs. Mildred Gregory 724-4986
339 S. Melrose Dr., Vista 92083

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY
Meets Third Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Avocado Inn, 114 Hillside Terrace, Vista
Pres.: Eugene Casey 753-3571
932 Crest Drive, Encinitas

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
2nd Wednesday, 9:30 a.m., Community Church
Pres.: Mrs. Ervin Pringle 748-1894
13517 Poway Rd. #H Poway 92064

RANCHO SANTE FE GARDEN CLUB
Second Tuesday—Club House, 2:00 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Edmund T. Price 756-2204
Box 576, Rancho Santa Fe 92067

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
Fourth Tuesday, San Carlos Club, 6955 Golfcrest Drive
Pres. Mrs. Glenn F. Bliss 463-4349
6275 Cowles Mountain, San Diego 92119

SAN DIEGO BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Fourth Monday, Barbour Hall - Univ & Pershing, 8 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Eugene Cooper 295-7938
4444 Arista Dr., S.D. 92103

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Meets at 9295 Harness Rd., Spring Valley 92077
Pres.: Mrs. Cleoves Hardin
2626 Coronado Ave., Space 116, Imperial Beach 92032

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
Third Wednesday, Seacoast Savings Building, Encinitas, 10 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Waldo Vogt 755-4772
773 Barbara Ave., Solana Beach 92075

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
First Wed., Youth Center, Lemon Grove
Pres.: Mrs. Mary Birchell
6070 Sarita St., La Mesa 92041 466-7631

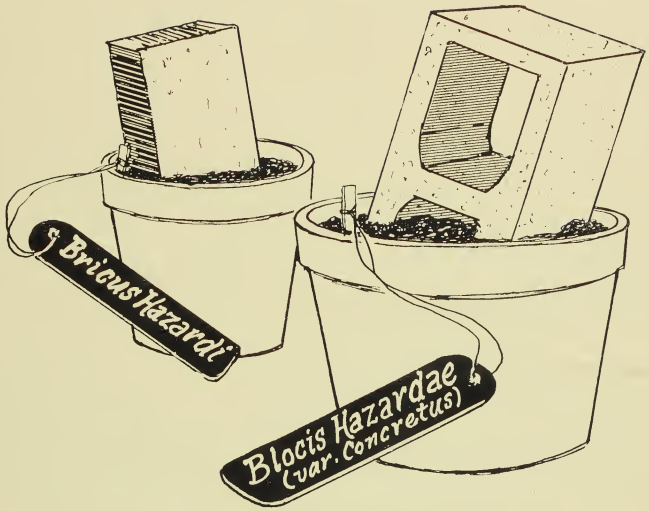
SANTA MARIA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Second Monday, Ramona Women's Club House, 5th and Main, 9:30 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Stanley MacKenzie 789-1135
R. 1, Box 949, Ramona 92065

SANTEE WOMEN'S CLUB Garden Sec.
Pres.: Mrs. Leon Roloff 448-0291
9138 Willow Grove Ave., Santee 92071

VALLE GARDEN CLUB, POWAY
Meets 3rd Thursday, 10 a.m. Homes of members
Pres.: Mrs. Brown Thompson III
16728 Espola Rd., Poway 92064

VISTA GARDEN CLUB
First Friday, Vista Rec. Center 1:00 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Daniel Ilich 724-8020
551 Morningside Pl., Vista 92083

VISTA MESA GARDEN CLUB
Second Tuesday, 2 p.m. Family Association Center
Pres.: Mrs. Clara Haskins 465-0910
2352 El Prado, Lemon Grove 92045



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